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WHY THE

WILDERNESS

IS CALLED

ADIRONDACK

BY

HENRY DORNBURGH.

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WHY THE WILDERNESS IS CALLED ADIRONDACK

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Compliments of Henry Dornburgh

THE ORIGIN OF THE GREAT NAME OF THE ADIRONDACKS.

FOLLOWING the Hudson river from Albany up to its source you go to Fort Edward, Sandy Hill, Glens Falls, Luzerne, North Creek and Newcomb and at the last named place, a short distance above the bridge crossing, there are two streams or branches of the Hudson, one to the left the other to the right. The one to the right is the main branch. About seven miles up this stream you come to what is called Tahawus where the company, which I will mention hereafter, built a dam. Five miles above the dam is Lake Sanford, while just below the lake is the east and main branch of the river. This stream has its source at Mount Tahawus or Mount Marcy, 5,200 feet above the sea. There are several streams before you reach Mount Marcy or the Avalanche lake stream, named after an avalanche that took part of the mountain side with it into the lake. Just below this lake is where the dam was built to turn the water into the west branch for manufacturing purposes. From Sanford lake up the river three miles you come to Lake Henderson, named after the late David Henderson, of Jersey City. About half way between these two lakes is the deposit of iron and steel ore found by the Indians. They gave it the name of Adirondack and afterwards it became the property of the Akirondack Iron company. Between the bold mountain peaks stands the deserted village known as the Old Adirondack village, whose site was selected by Archibald McIntyre, of Albany, and Judge McMartin, of Broadalbin. The names of these gentlemen will frequently appear in this description of the Adirondacks. There is where the company started a wooden frame railroad, three miles of which they built, and then abandoned it as they found it was a poor investment. The road was projected by Israel Johnson and they intended to build it to the state road leading from Glens Falls to Elizabethtown. This was the starting point of all the Adirondack names. In the year 1822, the Indians traveling through the wilderness from Lake George to Keene, following the course of the streams and rivers, discovered a large vein of ore running across the North river where the old deserted village now stands. The Indians on their way through to Keene by

way of the Indian pass, or upon their arrival at Keene, found a forge owned by Archibald McIntyre in full blast making iron. Looking at the ore and then at the iron they saw how it was converted from the raw material into iron. They concluded to inform Mr. McIntyre of their discovery of an ore bed directly across the Hudson, and they gave such glowing descriptions of it that Mr. McIntyre was induced to return with them and examine the ore and its magnitude and location. Arriving at the place he found the bed of ore, upon examination, was as valuable as the Indians had represented, and paying them for their services he dismissed them. Steps were immediately taken to secure the land and Mr. McIntyre having been comptroller of the state was conversant with wild lands and therefore knew how to locate. This was done by buying two townships, 46 and 47, Totton and Crossfields purchase, Essex county, New York. The ore at Keene not being valuable, Mr. McIntyre abandoned that enterprise and associating with him Judge McMartin, of Broadalbin, commenced operations in 1826 at this new field by erecting a forge and building suitable for separating ore, and also erected a log building to accommodate their men. This ore was worked for several years when Judge McMartin died, and after that a new firm was organized, Mr. McIntyre associating with him David Henderson, of Jersey City, and Archibald Robinson, of Philadelphia. The new firm went to work with great zeal, built fires and hammers, and made iron after the primitive method, using a forge and charcoal for smelting the ore and settling the melted ore in the bottom of the forge hearth into a loop. This loop was then taken out, put under a large hammer called a shingling hammer, and after being shingled into a loop it was heated again and put under a smaller hammer when it was drawn out into bar iron.

They labored with the forge a few years and finding the ore very good and their forge too slow a process, they concluded to build a furnace. David Henderson being appointed principal manager of the firm in 1838, they built a quarter furnace. In digging for the foundation they came to a rich ore bed and the old ruins are yet standing upon the ore bed. This furnace proved a success. Previous to this, however, in 1837, they built a puddling furnace and did a large amount of labor in all needful branches prepared expressly for making bar iron. At and a little before this time they made roads to Schroon river by way of the branch, their iron being hauled thirty six to forty miles to Lake Champlain. Mr. Henderson made large experiments with the iron to convert it into steel. In the iron he found a good steel property, his experiments proving so successful that they concluded to make preparations for the manufacture of steel. Mr. Henderson then made a trip to England expressly for the purpose of consulting and making arrangements with some person who understood steel making, and going direct to the great Sheffield Steel and Cutlery works made his wants known to one of the principal foremen of the Sheffield company, named Pixley. Mr. Henderson informed him that he desired to manufacture steel in America, having a good iron for the purpose located in a dense wilderness and surrounded with an abundance of wood, and that his company wanted to establish a steel and cutlery works for the manufacture of large and small articles. He also stated to Mr. Pixley that they wanted to make steel with charcoal, but this being a new theory to Mr. Pixley he replied that it would be new to him, but he would make experiments and report to him. Mr Henderson left Sheffield feeling much elated over his success in enlisting Mr. Pixley in the scheme and immediately returned to Ameri-

ca to await the result of Mr. Pixley's experiments. After several months had expired Mr. Pixley wrote to Mr. Henderson that he had made the experiments with charcoal and found them successful. After this favorable report the Adirondack company concluded to make all needed arrangements for establishing an extensive cutlery works in the Adirondacks. They went directly to work and built a costly dam across the Hudson river, ten miles below their iron works, which they named Tahawus, after one of the great mountains. This was to be called the Tahawus Steel and Cutlery works. In the meantime they built a large boarding house while working upon the dam, previously they had constructed a log boarding house. They built a saw mill and dock for landing their iron from the upper works immediately. The two places were called the upper and lower works and go by these names. The dam flowed the water in Lake Sanford and raised the lake four feet, covering a level tract of land for the space of five miles before reaching the lake. This gave it an increase of additional water. The length of the lake is about four miles. By this dam the company were enabled to use boats. They built boats, floated iron to their lower dock from the upper dock and wood and coal from the lower dock, to be used in their blast and puddling furnaces, Mr. Pixley came to America, landing at Jersey City, and he and Mr. Henderson made a trip to the Adirondack iron works and contemplated steel works. Mr. Pixley gave plans for all necessary buildings to carry on the operations successfully, and the plans were duly made. Mr. Pixley, after the accomplishment of this much of the work, returned to England and three or four months later he wrote to Mr. Henderson saying that he had devoted his time to making further experiments with charcoal and had arrived at the conclusion that he could not make steel with charcoal, and therefore abandoned the project. This caused a stoppage of further operations at Tahawus and notwithstanding a dam, boarding house, dock and large store house were built or in process of construction, the whole steel project came to a termination. Mr. Henderson said that the Sheffield company had or must have made arrangements with Mr. Pixley not to come to America and establish steel works; this was his supposition of Mr. Pixley's sudden change of mind. The Adirondack Iron company still continued building and enlarging their old works and erected various buildings until they had a small village, which is now known as the "deserted village." The Adirondack railroad derived its name from this company, whence springs so many names of Adirondack. They kept building and improving until 1843. In this year they required more water in dry weather to propel their machinery, and as there were two branches of the Hudson the company determined to build a dam and divert the east branch into the west branch. They continued, however, with a short supply of water until September, 1845, when their engineer, Daniel Taylor, with whom they had discussed the practicability of the idea, advised them to put the scheme into execution. A party was formed consisting of Messrs. Henderson and Taylor, Anthony Snyder, John Cheaney and a ten-year-old son of Mr. Henderson, to search for a course to lead the water to their works, and as they expected to camp out over night they carried knapsacks. The distance between the two streams upon their route was six miles, and about half way of this distance there was a small pond called the duck hole. When the little party came in full view of it they discovered a number of ducks in it, whereupon Mr. Henderson remarked to John Cheany: "You take my pistol and kill some of those ducks," and he handed his pistol to Cheany.

The balance of the party had gone to the head of the pond to start a fire preparatory for dinner. John Cheany had advanced but a few yards upon the ducks when they discovered his approach and flew out of range, and Mr. Cheany then stepped up to Mr. Henderson and returned the pistol which Mr. Henderson replaced in its sheath. Mr. Cheany knowing there was an abundance of trout in the pond, concluded not to follow up the ducks but catch some of the gamey fish, and preparing hook and line he found a pole where he had caught hundreds of trout before. He had just dropped the hook in the water when he heard the report of a pistol, and looking in that direction he saw the party had arrived at the head of the pond and also saw that Mr. Henderson was in a stooping posture and that Messrs. Taylor and Snyder, who had been in the vicinity gathering wood for the dinner fire, were at his side. Mr. Cheany knew Mr. Henderson was shot by the movement he made, and he ran to him as fast as possible. Upon arriving at Mr. Henderson's side the fallen man turned his eyes to him and said: "John, you must have left the pistol cocked." Mr. Cheany could make no reply, not knowing but that might have been the case. Mr. Henderson looked around and said: "This is a horrible place for a man to die," and then calling his son to him he gently said, "Archie, be a good boy and give my love to your mother." This was all he said, although his lips kept moving for a few minutes as if in prayer, and at the end of fifteen minutes from the time of being shot he expired. The theory of the cause of the accident is as follows: Mr. Henderson, it is supposed, took off his knapsack and laid it on a rock and then unbuckled his belt at the same time taking hold of the muzzle of the pistol, and in laying it down on the rock he must have struck the rock with the hammer which caused the discharge of the weapon, and as the muzzle was pointing towards him the ball entered his abdomen just below the navel, causing the fatal wound. The ball in its passage made three holes through his shirt, which was in folds. The party set to work to make a couch for the body, breaking balsam boughs and laying them in a pile, and on this bed the lifeless remains were placed. This done, Mr. Snyder returned to the village for help and lights, knowing that by the time he returned it would be dark. The balance of the party remained with the body. Upon his arrival in the village Mr. Snyder was very cautious in stating his errand, and picked his men judiciously, ordering them to prepare themselves with lanterns, axes and tools to construct a bier to carry the remains to the village. He also set men to work cutting out trees and bushes to make a way for the corpse to be conveyed to the village, there being but a narrow trail then, and the trail made by Mr. Snyder is now used by tourists on their way to Mt. Marcy. The singularity of a body of men passing along the street with lighted lanterns in the day time and carrying axes and other tools, naturally caused quite a sensation, and the news of the accident soon spread, and it was soon known by the company's principal manager, Mr. Andrew Porteous, now of Luzerne, Warren county, N. Y. Mrs. Henderson, Maggie, little Archie and a nephew named David Henderson, were in the village at the time, and Mrs. Henderson, accompanied by her daughter Maggie and Mrs. Porteous, made her way into the street to ascertain the cause of the commotion. Seeing Michael Laverty, the women caught hold of him and insisted upon his telling them the cause of the unusual proceeding, but the man was not disposed to give them any information and evaded a direct answer, whereupon they laid hands upon him and told him

they would not let him go until he told them. He then admitted that he believed that some of the men were hurt in the woods, and Maggie immediately burst out crying, "Pa is shot, pa is shot." Woman's instinct divined the mystery which the men had been directed to preserve towards the women, and they knew it was Mr. Henderson who had been shot, for if it had been any other in the party secrecy would not have been observed. When some of the men arrived at the scene of the sad accident, they set to work preparing a bier to lay the remains upon, while others made the path wider, so that the transference of the corpse could be accomplished with greater ease. Early in the morning the other party bringing the remains, arrived at the village and men were set to work building a rude coffin. These men were Spencer Eggerton, of Moriah, and the writer of this article, and as the weather was very warm speedy despatch was required to hasten the remains to Jersey City before decomposition set in. A despatch was sent to Russell Root, of Root's Center, Schroon river, requesting him to meet the party in charge of the corpse at Mr. Wise's shanty on the cartage road. The cartage road being in course of construction the remains were conveyed by team from the village to Tahawus, where they were taken from this point upon the shoulders of men to strike the cartage road. This occupied all day as the party were obliged to move slowly upon a winter road trail, and Mr. Wise's shanty was not reached until daybreak, where Root was waiting to conduct the party to Lake Champlain to take the steamboat. The last carry was ten miles. The relatives of the deceased immediately proceeded to Jersey City, to make the funeral arrangements and despatches were sent to friends. Mr. Henderson's death was a sad blow to the Adirondack Iron company, as he was their most influential man and he was also greatly missed by all classes who had learned to love him, and for a few days all work was suspended in the village. After Mr. Pixley's failure to come and make steel, Mr. Henderson engaged in conversation with Joseph Dixon, who was known in late years as Graphite Dixon, from his being interested in the graphite works in Ticonderoga. In their conversation Mr. Henderson stated the circumstances of their disappointment in Mr. Pixley, whereupon Mr. Dixon told Mr. Henderson that he could make steel, to which Mr. Henderson replied, "If you can make steel you had better go to work." "I have no means to use for that purpose," was Mr. Dixon's rejoinder. "If you are sure you can make steel," said Mr. Henderson, "you may go to work for us and you may have all the money you want and all the men you want and all necessary materials you want." Mr. Dixon resolved to accept the offer and go to work. He commenced in the outskirts of Jersey City and built a rude cementing furnace and this, being an experiment, was upon a small scale. He put his iron bars in the furnace leaving a place to extract a bar as the steel process progressed. This was done by building the furnace as high as the length of the bars required and within the furnace was a compartment so constructed as to allow the heat to surround it. This compartment was filled with charcoal and good common-bar iron and below was a fire whose intense heat ignited the charcoal which burned in a perpendicular trunk with ore. This cemented the bar into blister steel, the charcoal carbonizing the iron. As this was successful the next step further was to build a melting furnace for the steel, but Mr. Dixon was somewhat puzzled to devise the correct plan, but finally he arranged it and commenced to build. He built his fire pit, got the blast all ready, broke up the blister

steel and put it into the crucibles, kindled his fires, melted the steel, made his moulds and poured in the steel, all of which were successful, except pouring the steel in flat moulds, for when he put the iron under the hammer he found flaws and long seams in his cast steel. This he thought he could obviate by pouring the steel in the moulds endwise which would cause the air to ascend in the moulds as fast as they filled. The process was a revelation to the American people. Mr. Dixon having succeeded in casting steel into coarse bars set about erecting suitable hammers for working the steel into small bars. Mr. Henderson about the time went to England and proceeding to Sheffield, he procured a tilter. How he ever induced him to come to America Mr. Henderson never told, but it was probably the large sum of money given the man that had the effect. With this Englishman's advice they were able to build a tilting hammer and other necessary apparatus and the steel manufactured with their improvements was of a good quality. This was the first cast steel plant in America. After the Sheffield man was introduced in America it was an easy matter to get more experienced men and the works were extensively enlarged and the business was very successful. This elated Mr Henderson, as he saw he had accomplished what he had striven for. After a few years they required an expert clerk, whom they found in James R. Thompson, who at the time was clerk at the iron works. Mr. Thompson was young and possessed good intellect and was quick to learn, and after assisting Mr. Dixon a few years in the steel works he became manager of the works. At this writing Mr. Thompson is making steel under the firm of J. R, Thompson & Co. David Henderson in his earlier days was engaged in the pottery business in Jersey City and his associate in that enterprise was Mr. Gregory, of the same place. Mr. Henderson, however, withdrew from the pottery business after engaging in the iron and steel experiments. He married a daughter of Archibald McIntyre, of Albany, and they had three children, two of them girls, one Maggie, the other I never knew. The son was Archie already mentioned. Maggie married George Gregory, of Jersey City, She only survived her father a few years. Mrs. Henderson died broken hearted a few years after her husbands demise, Archie lived to be a young married man, but died a few years after. The other daughter, it is said, has also passed away, thus none of the family remain. Mr. Henderson was a scientific man of more than ordinary attainments and was not only one of the best financiers but was very accomplished and agreeable. He was always very pleasant with his men and as he was an excellent violinist he often played while his men indulged in a little dance. This manifestation of interest in them won their friendship and his name will be revered by them as long as life lasts. The day of the calamity still seems fresh with many. It was a day of great mourning in the wilderness and it will be a long time before such a day of mourning will again take place in the Adirondacks. Had Mr. Henderson lived, in all probability, the Adirondacks would have flourished with iron and steel works second to none on this continent. His whole energy was in that direction. He remarked to the writer one day: "I have tested our iron ore for steel and find it is adapted for it." He knew there were millions of money undeveloped in those mountains of ore, and when mountains are mentioned here it is meant so in every sense of the word. Archibald McIntyre in his early days located in the city of Albany, where he lived and reared a family. For a number of years he was comptroller of the state of New York. At

that time there arose a controversy between Mr. McIntyre and a man by the name of Fox. Charges were brought against Mr. McIntyre and a long dis pute ensued, which was published in pamphlet form, and it resulted in victory for Mr. McIntyre, who refuted all the charges. This was very satisfactory to the people of the state, as he being a wealthy man wielded a large influence. He carried on a lottery and Mr. Henderson was associated with him. In the last year when lotteries were permitted in the state, Mr. McIntyre offered the state $50,000 for the privilege of conducting the lottery one year longer after the state had put a stop to them It was reported that they carried lotteries into other states and this may have been one of their sources of wealth. . Mr. McIntyre survived Mr. Henderson seven or eight years.

Mr. Archibald Robinson, who was located at Philadelphia, was extensively engaged in mercantile business and was a leading and controling merchant, and possessed of large wealth. Mr. Robinson said the Adirondack works had always been a financial draft upon them, but it never seemed to lessen their wealth. Mr. Robinson died a few years ago. In former years when in full blast, J. R. Thompson was clerk under Mr. Porteous, the great manager, and after J. Thompson, went to Jersey City, Robert Clark, of Cincinnati, was clerk. He remained a few years and returned home. Next and last was Alexander Ralph, now of Pottsdam, he being chief manager after Mr. Porteous left. J. R. Thompson was the original clerk under A. Porteous. He was a young man at this time and made the little valley ring with his Scotch songs, and the laborers after their days work would collect around him and urge upon him the expansion of his lungs. When once started it was so easy for him he would amuse them with songs late in the evening. J. R. Thompson, Robert Clark and Alexander Ralph, were nephews of the company. After Mr. Porteous the company employed Mr. Ralph and assigned the entire charge of the works to him until the death of Mr. Robinson, when all work ceased. Before the death of the two last named gentlemen they sold the entire property to what was called the Curtis company, conditionally for five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The new company paid eighty thousand dollars down and took possession. This was at the time the large new furnace was completed. The new firm agreed to pay a further sum at a specified time, if they failed to comply with the terms, and the contract to be rescinded, the old company retaining power to seize all iron made by said new firm upon the premises and upon its way to market. The new company failed. Their outside manager was Benjamin Butler, of Luzerne. As soon as the second installment became due, the old company assumed control again. The laborers under the new company having trouble in getting their pay, Messrs McIntyre and Robinson ordered their agent, A. Ralph, to ascertain the amount due the laborers, and pay them seventy-five c nts on the dollar. This being done the men kept on working. I will speak of the bank located in the heart of the Adirondacks. When in full blast the outlay of the company was so great they concluded to establish a bank, which being done they named it the McIntyre bank, with bills redeemable at Albany. They built a small banking house and stocked it with the bills. The bank created a large circulation of money, as there were in their employment in those years three or four hundred men. This number of men made a large circulation of the bills in every direction, from Albany to Canada, from the Adirondacks to all the cities. The bank was kept up but a few years and called in all of its bills and re-

deemed them. The Essex county assessors assessed the bank so high that Mr. McIntyre concluded it was cheaper to do their banking at Albany, and avoid the enormous assessment imposed upon them. And right here a word to assessors. Do not be too avaricious and step too far with companies by way of extortion, a judicious assessment is always recommended. In this case it proved to be a detriment to Essex county and its tax-payers. In their early days they did a small amount of business through Joseph Frost, of Breadport, Vt. Their principal, A. Porteous, had a chief order dispatcher in the person of Peter Daugherty, of the town of Minerva. Peter was often detailed to run, even at short notices, and a large share of the time was upon foot, as in this early stage of their business roads were in bad condition. Peter was in the habit of having frequent calls by night as well as by day. A companion accompanied him one time part of the way over the Boreas mountain. He had orders to go to Port Henry and started about three or four o'clock in the afternoon upon his mission, going by the way of the old state road that went through the wilderness from Cedar Point to Carthage. He went by way of Israel Johnson's, who resided then at Clear Pond upon this road. Darkness overtook Peter as he was ascending the Boreas mountain and the road ran over an arm of the mountain. All of a sudden he was startled by a sharp shrill sound, so shrill that he was frightened, not knowing what animal it might be, and he thought of returning, but the thought struck him that returning was as hazardous as to continue, so he made a halt for reflection. To his surprise he realized that he had neither gun, knife or matches. His first impulse had been to start a fire, but this being a failure he concluded to continue upon his journey. He now heard footsteps to his right very near the road, now in front of him, now in the rear, now upon the opposite side, then another screech, this being so near him as to cause his hair to stand erect. Not knowing what to do, Peter concluded to expand his lungs by screeching as loud as he could, thinking it might intimidate the animal which by this time he had learned was a panther which would like to make his acquaintance. The thought of a panther then and there in the night and no relief, impelled him to continue his journey, and encounter what might happen. There came another frightful screech as if calling for help, and another screech from Peter with well filled lungs, with his hand up to his head to push his hat down to keep it from falling off, as his hair was uplifted. The panther still kept him company and Peter heard him upon one side, then in front keeping this up continually, and so near he could hear the leaves and little twigs break under the beast's feet. Again came the screech from the panther followed by Mr. Daugherty, as usual, and their companionship lasted until they descended the mountain. Finally the animal's footsteps could not be heard, as there was nothing to indicate his absence, only an occasional screech in the distance and Mr. Daugherty's hat assumed its wonted position. Mr. Daugherty is a person not easily frightened but he made his way with quick steps for Mr. Johnson's and put up for the night. Mr. Johnson had cleared land and had built a sawmill, it being a convenient place for the company and their men to camp. Mr. Daugherty has often spoken of his fright, with his night companion in the Adirondacks. I have mentioned John Cheany, as one of the party who were at the death of Mr. Henderson. John was their guide and was a great favorite of the company, always ready with dog, gun and fishing rod and he was styled the "mighty hunter," on account of his success in

the capture of deer and trout. John was loved and esteemed by all. The company paid his board by the year, when he was not at their boarding house. In those days deer and trout could be caught in abundance and John was the principal guide, and if parties intended to visit any of the mountains John was the man chosen for guide, being acquainted with all the high mountains. The company thought so much of him they made him a donation of a farm, about one mile from Tahawus, upon the road leading from Adirondack to Schroon river. Here he built a house and married Lucina Bissell, of Newcomb, reared a family of two sons and died a few years since. At the yearly arrival of the company, they usually brought a minister and doctor with them from the city. Mr. Henderson usually brought Mr. Johns, of Jersey City, with him and he gave them a sermon every Sabbath, but there was not much call for doctors, as the place was a healthy one and the air very bracing among the Adirondacks. Mr. McIntyre usually had his family physician, named McNorton, go up to the mountains with him. Mr. McNorton married Mr. McIntyre's daughter and was located at Albany. He is now dead. I recollect at one of their visits to this place they had a call for a doctor.

The company reared a bull from a calf and he was annoyed by the men, who plagued him at times. When three years old he would turn aside with reluctance for any person. There were three men raising ore at the river bed —a father and two sons. The father's name was Alexander Thompson, the eldest son's name Andrew and the youngest Alexander. Andrew had occasion one day to go down to the blacksmith shop for repairs upon his drills, and after the repairs he was on his return to the mine. When near the mine he met the bull, and the bull did not care to leave the road. Andrew went for him with the drill, and this caused the bull to show fight. Andrew thought he could frighten him, but this he could not accomplish and the bull made for him. Andrew was compelled to retreat with the bull following and Andrew swinging the drill was compelled to drop all the tools he had and use one drill to the best advantage he could, and all the while on the retreat by backing up. By this time he had backed up to a stump and sprang behind it, the bull following him around the stump. This point was opposite the bed. The bull made a desperate drive for him and struck him with one of his horns in his rear and planted one horn into him, throwing him up in the air. This caused Andrew to plunge for a small perpendicular rock caused by blasting ore, some fifteen feet high. His father and brother saw what was going on and met the bull as he made his way around the ledge upon a keen run to meet Andrew. Father and brother pelted the animal with chunks of ore, but to no purpose, and they could not turn him. Andrew ran for the river, where there was a large pile of floodwood that had been accumulating for years. He made for this and succeeded in getting upon the pile before the bull could reach him. The bull had followed him to the brink of the river and dare not make the leap Andrew had, and he exhibited his disappointment by bellowing and started on a full run, which attracted the attention of father and brother. After they saw that Andrew was safe Alexander ran down to the village for help, and procuring several men they went back and drove the bull away. I went to the floodwood and helped the wounded man down. He was conducted to the boarding house and the doctors were summoned, Doctors McNorton and James McIntyre, son of Archibald. They dressed his wound and in a few

months Andrew was able to resume work. [I can call to mind a Dr. Goodale who was located in the village in after years and kept school and attended sick calls when such occurred.] This was the first gladitorial exhibition in all the Adirondacks, but it was not witnessed by so many spectators as at the coliseum in Rome when a prisoner was condemned to death. Andrew for a time was a prisoner by the two horned animal. In connection with this circumstance I will mention an incident that took place early one Monday morning, about breakfast time. Some time previous to this morning the boys got to bragging of superior strength. There was a large force of Irish and French laborers in the business and this bragging was indulged in on Sunday and the challenge given for Monday morning. Monday morning came and the French champion arrived early. He was a good sized man, heavily built and of good muscular development. The champion on the opposite side was an Irishman, named Henry Pratt. A ring was formed in the street and both contestants were willing and sure of success. George Bibby, of the town of Chester, Warren county, was selected as referee. No intruders dare to approach inside the circle and good order was preserved. The bout opened with sparring and continued for a few rounds, but no scientific work was exhibited. They seemed bent upon taking advantage of each other and were wary. Pratt saw his opportunity and getting his antagonist down a few blows followed and the Frenchman gave up. This contest aroused Andrew Porteous from his morning slumbers and he made his appearance in the street and dispersed the crowd. This little battle ended all difficulty between the two factions. Andrew Porteous was general manager for this company twelve or fourteen years, and was a very successful manager. The company had implicit confidence in his ability to handle their money and he did all their banking business while the bank remained in the Adirondacks. It may surprise tourists when visiting the Adirondack wilderness to learn that there once existed a bank where the deserted village now is. Seven years since I visited the village and everything was in a dilapidated condition in the bank. The floor had fallen in, and no desk or counter was there where hundreds of thousands of dollars had passed over to the bank's patrons. James R. Thompson has a club formed, called the Adirondack club. They have repaired two of the old buildings. They make this their summer resort and have established private fishing ponds. Mr. Thompson has personal control of this vast estate. The club has established a fish hatchery here where they hatch millions of trout for their fish preserves and occasionally they give passes to some of their friends who wish to catch trout. These passes are presented to Myron Buttles, who now is superintendent for J. R. Thompson and the club. Three or four years since the club introduced three moose from Maine into the Adirondacks and built a park of cedar logs, expressly for the purpose of raising moose, but the animals did not do well and died. The close confinement did not agree with them. David Hunter, who lives at Tahawus, has charge of this portion of the old property. He also keeps the postoffice at this place, where all mail stops for the deserted village. J. R. Thompson has sold the standing timber upon Township forty-seven to Messrs. Finch, Pruyn & Co., of Glens Falls, who are now cutting off all valuable lumber and floating it down the river to Glens Falls, where they have extensive saw mills.

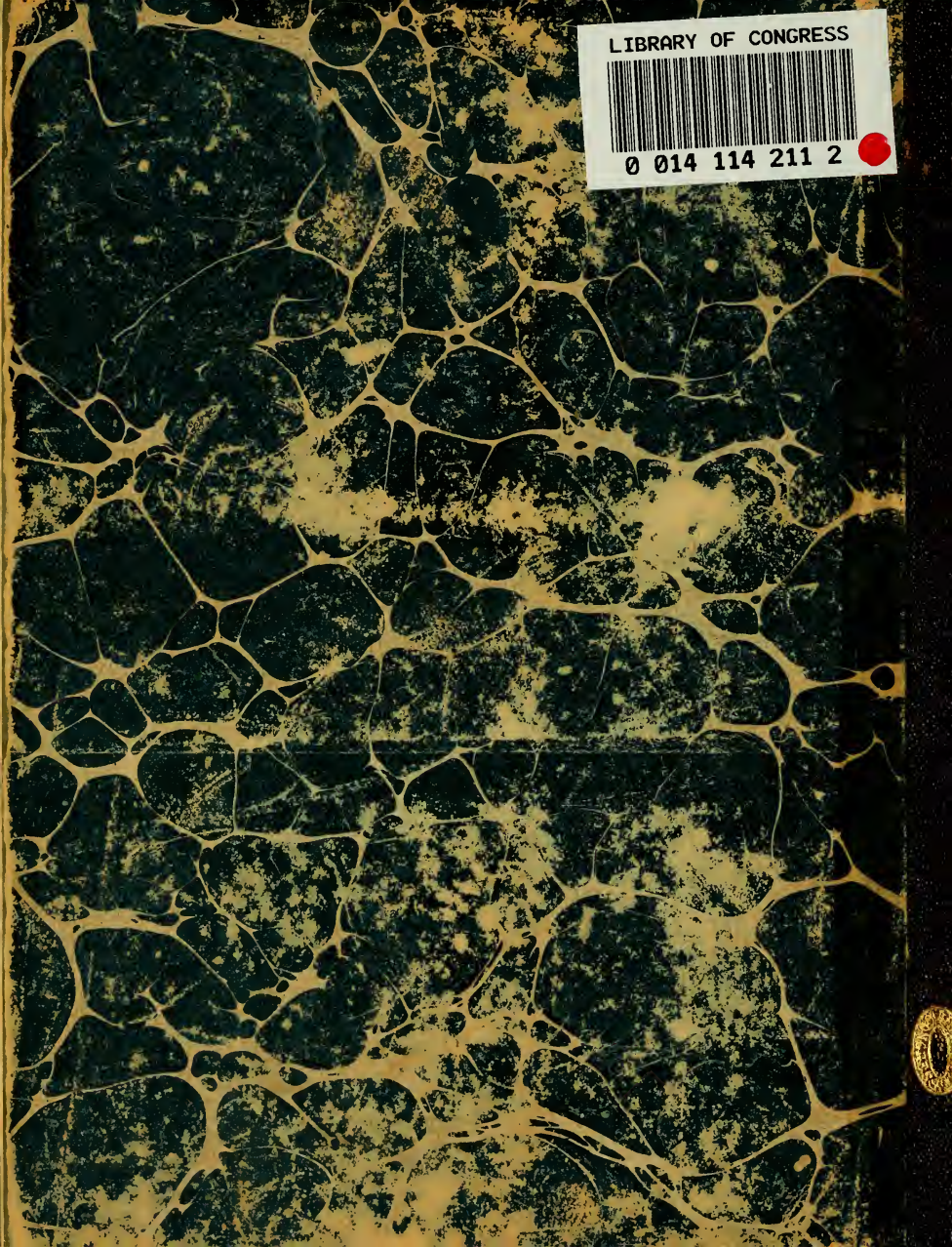
From the deserted village you travel by way of Calamity pond to Avalanch lake, thence up the Opal stream to the foot of Mt. Marcy, which is the father

of the Adirondacks. Looking from this point your eyes take all the minor mountains in and it is like taking wax balls of different sizes and standing at a slight distance throwing them against a large one, all around, one above another, and you then have a fac-simile of the Adirondacks Some of the prominent ones are as follows: First is Mt. Santinony, a mountain five miles long, but not as high as some others ; Mt. McIntyre, named after Mr. McIntyre; Mt. Saddleback, Mt. Boreas, Mt. Allayn, Mt. Bason, Mt. Redfield, Mt. Skylight, Mt. Elk, Woolf-paw mountain. Then there are the Boreas, the North river, and the Keene ranges. These mountains have large water sheds at their bases and in the spring of the year the streams are very much swollen, which gives plenty of water for lumbermen to float their logs down the Hudson.

At the time the state located our prison at Clinton we had a commissioner appointed to look at the two locations. He came to the Adirondack works, looked over the property and examined the quality of the ore. This was all satisfactory to his mind, but the distance to get the iron to market was the great obstacle in the way, for about forty-eight or fifty miles to haul iron upon wagons was too much of an expense. He was of the opinion tnat some day the state would need this property, but at the present time he must recommend Clinton, as it was a shorter distance to market. Now that we need more room for our prisoners and larger fields of ore, the state would be very much benefitted by utilizing this place as a basis of operations. The state is coming into possession of a large proportion of the Adirondacks by reason of non-payment of taxes, and as we become owners of land in the immediate surroundings of the deserted village, it being the wishes of a large proportion of the inhabitants of the state to become owners of this valuable property, here we could have iron, steel and cutlery works erected as contemplated. by the late David Henderson. The ore has been tested for steel and has proven to be all that is required I have refined hundreds of tons of this iron and have found it good. The Adirondack Iron company have had razors made from this ore, also knives and other edge tools. John Daugherty, of Minerva, was sent to New York city and had some of the steel made into razors and they bore a remarkable edge. This was after the death of Mr. Henderson. A. Porteaus, who was manager at the time, caused this experiment of edge tools to be made, and various edge tools were made at their works by their blacksmiths. Samuel Sanders, now of Schroon Lake, make various edge tools while at work for the company, he being an expert workman. I have settled this theory in my mind several years ago, and I came to the conclusion when our commissioner made his report in favor of Clinton, we, as a people of the state, had made a great mistake. I would recommend a renewal of the examination and locate where the state can control a wealth of millions of dollars, now undeveloped. The distance now from railroad is only thirty-seven miles, at a point called North Creek, to the old works. The state could build a branch road from this point up the Hudson to the deserted village. I desire to call the attention of our legislators to this most important subject, and establish works that will be equal to the Sheffield works and name it Adirondack Prison works. There is no necessity now of going to England for laborers to manufacture steel, as we have our own workmen who can perform its required duties. A few hundred thousand dollars expended would put the state in possession of millions of dollars in return. Let us consider the subject and see if the state cannot come into possession of the Adirondacks, a name that is on the lips of all tourists

who travel in the wilderness. There would be great rejoicing if the state gained possession of this property by all persons knowing its value. Meyer Bordeau, of Troy, made experiments with a small vein in Minerva, but failed to find any quantity of ore and abandoned the operation. This was a small out-cropping of the Adirondack ore drifted in this direction. It is always remarkable that the old pioneers never reap any reward for their toil—so with the Adirondack company. The great engineers in the infancy of their work had to leave their associates to struggle for but a short period, and they, too, followed in a short space of time soon to be forgotten.

Where Mr. Henderson fell a large monument has been erected to his memory, and this monument will stand as long as the Adirondacks. It was erected at a large expense and is very durable. I might relate a good many incidents in connection with the history of the old Adirondack Iron company and their mode of operation, but it would not interest many who are not acquainted with the business or its location and value. Who can comprehend this great force of mind so often hid and then developed by stirring energy such as I have described concerning the three pioneers who toiled to develop the great ore beds. This was food for deep reflection for Mr. Henderson, who, realizing the extent of the work before him, expected by great energy to accomplish a great result. Alas ! too soon was he required to give up his great work by his untimely death at Calamity pond, and not a male heir was there among the proprietors' sons to step forward and prosecute the undertaking so auspiciously begun by those enterprising men.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